

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris

DATE: November 6, 1996

SERIAL NO: 08/286,413

GROUP ART UNIT: 2111

FILED: August 5, 1994

EXAMINER: R. Gibson

FOR: "Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss Determination System"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: A94087US (S1929/1)

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DECLARATION OF MARY JOHNSON, R.N., UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sirs:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am familiar with the above-referenced invention as claimed in the claims presented in the Rule 116 Response dated September 24, 1996 filed in the above-referenced patent application.

I have been employed as a Registered Nurse in the operating room for over thirteen years. Presently I am O.R. Education Coordinator at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. My institution is a large inner city hospital with over 25 operating rooms. I am familiar with the invention of Sharon L. Morris, RN mentioned above. In my professional opinion, this device solves the problem of accurate and instantaneous calculation of Estimated Blood Loss contained in sponges during surgical procedures.

This is the only device that I am aware of that automatically computes EBL without manual calculation and weighing of sponges by nurses. In addition, this device, as described in the patent application, should perform this calculation with a high degree of accuracy. This can be important in cases involving small children or infants and in heavy blood loss procedures which use large numbers of soiled sponges. I believe that this device will also reduce blood exposure for nursing personnel responsible for counting and weighing soiled surgical sponges.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made of her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and that this

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statement is made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Sincerely,

12-20-96

Date

Mary L. Johnson RN CCR

Mary Johnson, RN

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## Mary P. Johnson, RN, BSN, CNOR

**Office Address**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Medical College of Virginia  
Operating Room / PACU  
Box 980039  
Richmond, VA. 23298  
804-828-1787

**Home Address**

5 Milby Circle  
Sandston, VA. 23150  
804-737-6828

## EDUCATION

## **M.S. in Nursing Administration**

**Virginia Commonwealth University,  
Medical College of Virginia, Candidate**

## Present

### **B.S. in Nursing**

## State University of New York, Brockport

1987

## EXPERIENCE

*Clinical Nurse Educator, Medical College of Virginia, Operating Room* 1995 - Present  
Responsibilities include: Orienting all new staff, supervise new staff until off probation. Set and maintain staff competency levels. Review and revise OR policy and procedures. Teach medical students scrub technique. Teach Nursing students and Nurse Anesthetist students perioperative nursing courses. Hire nursing assistants. Member of Joint Commission Committee for OR. Coordinate all inservices for OR staff. Resource to all staff as it relates to perioperative nursing. Maintain Scrub and Circulating skills.

*Clinical Manager for Ophthalmology & Urology, Medical College of Virginia,  
Operating Room* 1994

Responsibilities include: Collaborated with Surgeons and Anesthesiologists in ordering equipment while maintaining cost-effectiveness of purchases. Implemented the use of custom surgical packs into both services, established par levels for Materials Management Department. Directly supervised members of both services. Chairperson for unit committee.

**Travel Nurse, American Mobile Nurses, Operating Room** 1990 - 1993  
Responsibilities included: Functioned in the capacity of perioperative nurse for nine assignments. Scrubbed and circulated in all specialty areas, functioning as charge nurse, and call responsibility.

**MEMBERSHIPS / PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Association of Operating Room Nurses  
QA + 1 Committee  
Professional Practice Council Committee  
Joint Commission Committee for OR

**HONORS AND SPECIAL CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Nurse of the Operating Room (CNOR), since 1991

**LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

“OR Expectations”. Presented to Nurse Anesthetist students, 1996  
“The Surgical Scrub”. Presented to third year medical students, 1994  
“OR Nursing Today”. Presented to Explorer Scouts, 1994  
“Use of the Steris”. Presented to nursing staff, 1994

**CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

Educators Excellence in Care Conference, Denver, CO. 1996 (15 CEU's)  
Association of Operating Room Nurses, National Congress, New Orleans, LA. 1994 (28 CEU's)

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